



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

law, text books rapidly become obsolete, new matter must be added, old matter must be rejected or rewritten. The present third edition is most welcome, however soon a new edition may be required.

E. B. GAGER.

*A Treatise on the Law of Telegraph and Telephone Companies, Including Electric Law.* Second edition. By S. Walter Jones. Published by Vernon Law Book Company, Kansas City, Mo. 1916. Pp. xxiv, 1065.

In the first edition of Mr. Jones' work, published ten years ago, no reference was made in the title to electric law, but no change is made in the present edition in the plan and scope of the work. In the first edition, as well as in the second, there was some discussion of the question arising out of the construction, insulation, and maintenance of electric wires, the relative duties and liabilities of companies using parallel or intersecting wires carrying currents of different powers; and of injuries to persons and property, caused by the electric current by electric railway and electric light companies; but the main subject of the work is the law governing the organization of telegraph and telephone companies, and the construction and operation of their lines, and the duties and liabilities of these companies. The scope of the work is, therefore, more limited than that of Joseph C. and Howard Joyce, under the title *Electric Law* published in 1900. The earlier work of Redfield on *Telegraph Companies, Their Rights and Duties*, 1869, was published before the telephone was invented. *Keasby on Electric Wires in Streets and Highways*, published in 1892 and enlarged in 1900, was in the nature of a monograph on the law governing the use of the highways for electric wires, and especially those of the newly invented electric railways.

In the ten years that have passed since the publication of the first edition of Mr. Jones' work there has been a great increase in the number of the decisions in the courts of our own country alone on every branch of the law affecting telegraph and telephone companies, and Mr. Jones has diligently collected and arranged them, using them as illustrations of the statements of the text, or as showing the development of the law. Many new paragraphs and some new chapters have been inserted, and some

chapters have been rewritten. The copious notes of the new edition have made the book a digest brought down to date, classified by states as well as by subjects in almost every topic of the work. In the rapid accumulation of decided cases it is important that the decisions should be classified by states, because the development of the law must be studied first in the jurisdiction in which it is applied, and then the cases elsewhere may be used by way of illustration or correction, for otherwise the student will be lost in a wilderness of special instances; but in a work intended as a handbook of the practitioner in the law applicable to a particular branch of business, it is desirable that all the cases should be cited and that the rules generally established should be stated with references to the authorities.

A suggestion was made in the first edition that some of the accepted definitions of the telegraph might have to be modified in view of the then recent experiments in wireless telegraphy, and in the present edition the application of the law to this mode of communication has been the subject of practical discussion. Some reference is made in the work to the controversy between the street railways and the telephone companies as to which of the two must take measures to avoid the disastrous effect on the telephone of the induction of the powerful current of the street railway. There was in this controversy an interesting question over the application of the doctrine of *Fletcher v. Rylands*. The doctrine was invoked in England in *National Telephone Co. v. Baker* [1893] 2 Ch. 186, and in a later case arising in the Cape of Good Hope; but it was rejected by the United States Circuit Court in *Cumberland Telegraph Co. v. United States Electric Co.* (1890) 42 Fed. 273.

There is scant allusion in the present work to this interesting question involving the basis of liability in tort. The purpose of the book is rather to furnish a statement of the existing law governing the construction, organization, and operation of telegraph and telephone companies, and their liability to persons dealing with them or injured by them. There is some discussion of franchises and taxation, but not much examination of the recent controversy over franchises as the subject of taxation.

EDW. Q. KEASBY.